Foreign Medical Education

372. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who had left for medical education abroad during the last three years;

(b) the names of countries to which Indian students go for medical education; and

(c) whether all the degrees/diplomas given by such countries are recognised by the Medical and Dental Councils of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per Eligibility Requirement for taking admission in an undergraduate medical course in a Foreign Medical Institution Regulations, 2002, an Indian citizen who has passed the qualifying examination either from India or an equivalent examination from abroad and is desirous of joining an undergraduate medical course in any foreign medical institution on or after 15th March, 2002 shall approach the Medical Council of India (MCI) for issue of an Eligibility Certificate for that purpose. MCI has received 11,702 applications from 15.03.2002 till date for issuance of Eligibility Certificate for purpose of taking admission to abroad for undergraduate medical course. This Ministry issues No Objection Certificates (NOC) to students for higher medical education in USA. During the last three years (from 2003 up to 20.11.2005), the number of doctors/students who have been issued NOC by this Ministry is 410.

As per section 13(4A) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, a person who is a citizen of India and obtains medical qualification granted by any medical institution in any country outside India recognized for enrolment as medical practitioner in that country after such date as may be specified by the Central Government under sub-section (3), shall not be entitled to be enrolled on any Medical Register maintained by a State Medical Council or to have his name entered in the Indian Medical Register unless he qualified the screening test in India prescribed for such purpose and such foreign medical qualification after such person qualifies

that said test shall be deemed to be the recognized medical qualification for the purpose of this Act for that person. The dental qualifications granted by any authority or institution which are recognized are given in Part III of the Schedule of The Dentists Act, 1948.

Combating the Bird Flu

373. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared itself fully to combat the Bird Flu epidemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the decision taken in the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No case of Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) has been reported in India either in humans or birds.

However, Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza in to India and to contain the disease if it has to happen in poultry or humans. The measures instituted are:

- A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services constituting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation ever since the WHO alerted the global community and advising appropriate actions to the Government.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has prepared and circulated an Action Plan for State Animal Husbandry